

(c) and (d) The quantity and value of coconut and groundnut oils exported for the years 1994-95 and 1995-96 are given below :

Year	Quantity (Tonnes)	Value (Rs. in lakhs)
1994-95	641.42	795.34
1995-96	609.96	424.94

The information for 1996-97 is not available.

[English]

Inferior Quality of Seeds

2553. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH :

SHRI RAJKESHAR SINGH :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that inferior quality of seeds are being supplied to the farmers in the country particularly in Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details of cases noticed by the Government during the year 1995-96 and 1996-97 till date, State-wise;

(c) the reasons for the failure of the Government in regard to take action against the suppliers of inferior quality of seeds;

(d) whether the Government propose to strengthen the present Seeds Act with a view to take action against the unscrupulous suppliers of seeds; and

(e) if so, the steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) Certain instances regarding the supply of sub-standard seeds to farmers in the country, (including in the State of Karnataka) have come to the notice of Government of India.

(b) During 1995-96, 73788 samples were drawn under the provisions of the Seeds Act, of which 6185 were found to be sub-standard. Action was taken against concerned seed dealers which included issue of warnings, orders to stop sale and launching of prosecutions under the provisions of the Seeds Act. Similarly, action was taken against 1109 seeds dealers in 1995-96 under the Seeds (Control) Order 1983 for contravention of the provisions of the Order. The data for 1996-97 is not yet available as the year has not yet come to a close.

(c) to (e) The Seeds Act, 1966 has stringent provisions for quality control of seeds of notified kinds

or varieties. It provides for penalties for supply of sub-standard seeds of notified kinds of varieties seeds have been declared as an essential commodity under Essential Commodities Act and the Seeds (Control) Order, 1983 contains provisions for licensing of dealers and for regulating the marketing and distribution of all types of seeds. Contraventions of the Order are punishable under the provisions of the Essential Commodities Act. The Seeds Act, 1966 and the Seeds (Control) Order 1983 provide an adequate legal framework to regulate the quality of seeds distributed to farmers. However, the enforcement of the Seeds Act and Seeds (Control) Order is the responsibility of the State Governments.

[Translation]

Scheduled Caste Population in Bihar

2554. SHRI MAHABIR LAL BISHVAKARMA :

SHRI R.L.P. VERMA :

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of people belonging to Scheduled Castes in Bihar;

(b) whether Pan, Swansi and Chanpar Castes are considered as Scheduled Caste and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) if so, the reasons for depriving these caste of the facilities available to other Scheduled Caste people;

(d) whether the Government are expecting any report from the Government of Bihar in this regard;

(e) if so, the time by which the Government of Bihar is likely to submit a report; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) The Scheduled Caste population of Bihar as per 1991 Census is 1,25,71,700.

(b) and (c). Pan, Swansi communities have been specified as Scheduled Castes in relation to the State of Bihar. Chanpar caste has not been specified as Scheduled Caste in Bihar and no request for its inclusion in the Scheduled Caste list of that State has been received.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) and (f) Question does not arise.

Issue of Arms Licences

2555. SHRI PARASRAM MEGHWAL : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is necessary for the District Magistrate to verify the character of the applicants by